

With help from *Libraries Connecting Texas*, your library will spend much less for faster broadband Internet!



What is E-rate?

The Universal Service [Schools and Libraries Program](#), commonly known as “E-rate,” provides discounts of up to 90 percent to help eligible schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access. The program is intended to ensure that schools and libraries have access to affordable telecommunications and information services. Eligible participants include public and most non-profit K-12 schools as well as all public and many private libraries. Program participants must carry out a competitive bidding process to select the most cost-effective companies to provide the goods and/or services requested. Program participants may request funding in five categories of service: Internet Access, Telecommunications, Internal Connections, Managed Internal Broadband Service, and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served and range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.

Eligibility

For purposes of USF support, libraries must meet the statutory definition of library or library consortium found in the 1996 *Library Services and Technology Act* ([Pub. L. 104-208](#)) ([LSTA](#)) and must be eligible for assistance from a State library administrative agency under that Act. Libraries must also be compliant with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

What is Libraries Connecting Texas?

The Texas State Legislature recently appropriated funds specifically to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to support libraries in applying for E-rate. The project, called [Libraries Connecting Texas \(LCT\)](#), provides **FREE**, one-on-one support and training from a professional E-rate coaching firm to guide participating libraries successfully through the 2019 E-rate Funding Year. Last year 84 participating LCT libraries successfully applied for \$607,485 of E-rate funding and increased their speeds by an average of 927%.

Get Started Today!

To get started in the Libraries Connecting Texas and E-rate programs, contact Henry Stokes at hstokes@tsl.texas.gov or 512-463-6624. To apply for the E-rate Program support and learn about eligibility, contact the TSLAC State E-rate Team at LCT@e-ratecentral.com or 516-801-7820.



**Libraries
Connecting
Texas**

